

BM66 – VIENNA

7b6



Internal motion

Resolution

Amendment

Title: Defend the disabled students' allowance in England

Point of the agenda: 7b

Proposed by: NUS UK

Seconded by: NSO, LSA, UNEF, USI, SYL, FAGE, VSS-UNES-USU

Text:

1 On Monday 7 April 2014, the Department for Business, Innovation and
2 Skills announced changes to the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) in
3 England. The UK government is planning to cut DSA --- gutting support
4 allowance that is vital to many students.

5 The DSA is a government grant in the United Kingdom, available to students
6 in higher education. DSA's are grants intended to help students to meet
7 additional costs or expenses that they face as a direct result of a disability
8 or specific learning difficulty. They are intended to help disabled students
9 to study on an equal basis with other students. Full-time, part-time and
10 postgraduate students do all qualify for this help. DSA's are paid on top of
11 the standard student finance package.

12 DSA is a crucial support for many disabled students in England, helping
13 many of them to access education. Research has shown that those students
14 that receive DSA are more likely to reach a first or upper class second
15 honours degree than those disabled students that do not receive such an
16 allowance. Additionally, research shows that 59 per cent of disabled
17 respondents in the UK worry about not having enough money to meet basic
18 living expenses.

19 Non-medical support, like note-taking, will no longer be covered by the
20 DSA, shifting a greater responsibility onto institutions to fund this
21 assistance. While well-resourced institutions with fewer disabled students

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22 may be able to provide the additional support, less well-resourced
23 universities and colleges with higher numbers of disabled students will
24 struggle to provide the necessary support.

25 ESU believes it is incredibly important to outline how dangerous and
26 damaging these cuts can be. ESU opposes cuts to the support for disabled
27 students, which is vital to so many disabled students across Europe. At a
28 time when the UK government has already made savage cuts to the
29 benefits of disabled people and cuts to local government funding, ESU
30 stands in solidarity with the Disabled Students' Campaign of NUS UK and
31 disabled students across Europe, to say that we cannot let this
32 development continue.

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Passed: **YES** **NO**

(for use of board meeting chair only!)